

HOUSE BILL NO. 310

INTRODUCED BY GLASER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE TO PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE DEFINITION OF "A BASIC SYSTEM OF FREE QUALITY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS" AND THE EDUCATIONALLY RELEVANT FACTORS; REQUIRING THE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST FIVE ADDITIONAL NONVOTING MEMBERS TO HELP CONDUCT THE REVIEW; REQUIRING THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE EVERY 6 YEARS ON THE STATUS OF THE DEFINITION AND THE FACTORS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 5-5-224, MCA, is amended to read:

"5-5-224. Education and local government interim committee. (1) The education and local government interim committee shall act as a liaison with local governments. The education and local government interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the following executive branch agencies and the entities attached to agencies for administrative purposes:

- (a) state board of education;
- (b) board of public education;
- (c) board of regents of higher education; and
- (d) office of public instruction.

(2) The committee shall:

- (a) provide information to the board of regents in the following areas:
 - (i) annual budget allocations;
 - (ii) annual goal statement development;
 - (iii) long-range planning;
 - (iv) outcome assessment programs; and
 - (v) any other area that the committee considers to have significant educational or fiscal policy impact;

- 1 (b) periodically review the success or failure of the university system in meeting its annual goals and
2 long-range plans;
- 3 (c) periodically review the results of outcome assessment programs;
- 4 (d) develop mechanisms to ensure strict accountability of the revenue and expenditures of the university
5 system;
- 6 (e) study and report to the legislature on the advisability of adjustments to the mechanisms used to
7 determine funding for the university system, including criteria for determining appropriate levels of funding;
- 8 (f) act as a liaison between both the legislative and executive branches and the board of regents;
- 9 (g) encourage cooperation between the legislative and executive branches and the board of regents;
- 10 (h) promote and strengthen local government through recognition of the principle that strong
11 communities, with effective, democratic governmental institutions, are one of the best assurances of a strong
12 Montana;
- 13 (i) bring together representatives of state and local government for consideration of common problems;
- 14 (j) provide a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy, and
15 intergovernmental cooperation;
- 16 (k) identify and promote the most desirable allocation of state and local government functions,
17 responsibilities, and revenue;
- 18 (l) promote concise, consistent, and uniform regulation for local government;
- 19 (m) coordinate and simplify laws, rules, and administrative practices in order to achieve more orderly
20 and less competitive fiscal and administrative relationships between and among state and local governments;
- 21 (n) review state mandates to local governments that are subject to 1-2-112 and 1-2-114 through
22 1-2-116;
- 23 (o) make recommendations to the legislature, executive branch agencies, and local governing bodies
24 concerning:
- 25 (i) changes in statutes, rules, ordinances, and resolutions that will provide concise, consistent, and
26 uniform guidance and regulations for local government;
- 27 (ii) changes in tax laws that will achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationships between
28 levels of government;
- 29 (iii) methods of coordinating and simplifying competitive practices to achieve more orderly administrative
30 relationships among levels of government; and

(iv) training programs and technical assistance for local government officers and employees that will promote effectiveness and efficiency in local government;

~~(p) if the legislature defines a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools and identifies the educationally relevant factors;~~ periodically review the definition OF A BASIC SYSTEM OF FREE QUALITY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS and the IDENTIFIED educationally relevant factors and, if necessary, make recommendations for revisions to the legislature. In conducting this review, the committee shall request the appointment of ~~five~~ SEVEN nonvoting members as follows:

(i) THE GOVERNOR OR THE GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE;

(ii) THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

~~(i)(iii)~~ two members of the board of public education appointed by the presiding officer of the board;

~~(ii)(iv)~~ two school board trustees with one each appointed by the Montana school boards association and the Montana rural education association; and

~~(iii)(v)~~ one school board trustee appointed jointly by the Montana school boards association and the Montana rural education association.

(q) report to the legislature every 6 years FOLLOWING [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT] on the status of the definition of a basic system of free quality elementary and secondary schools and the educationally relevant factors; and

~~(p)(r)~~ conduct interim studies as assigned."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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